

Name Shiga Hasagawa Graduation year 1939

Today's date: _____ 1991

I. Why did you choose to study at MES?

Her name was Margaret Haseltine! In my college in Tokyo, a graduate of MES was teaching physical ed. She was a wonderful girl and every body liked her. I got the name of MES then (1935).

Miss Emma Kaufman, a Canadian and a founder of YWCA in Tokyo, advised me to take MES course after my graduation.

II. What alternatives did you consider?

I already taught physical ed. for one year before entering MES. So, teaching at my own school must have been the only alternative, I think.

III. What are some of your fondest memories of being a student at MES?

My fondest memories go back to the camping life at Tanamakoon and Cuchichin, partly because we in Japan had little opportunities to go camping in those days. Life at Tanamakoon gave us time to dine, play, talk with girls and study nature. It was a real feast for me as I was living outside of school residence throughout the year.

IV. What are some of your worst memories of being a student at MES?

As my life in Toronto, at MES, was the best time of my whole life, I have no worse memories as a student from overseas. Japan was waging an aggressive war against China and the world, but the girls and the staff were warm with love and friendship all through my stay in Canada.

V. With respect to your course work what are some of your fondest memories?

I enjoyed anatomy, voice culture and wide range of subjects that Miss Wardley (then) taught us. I liked the way she got at the truth of what she was teaching-- her view of life. As for practical training, I liked camping, folk dancing (to know more of the cultural life of other countries), canoeing, lacrosse, skating, etc.

VI. With respect to your course work what are some of your worst memories?

VII. What do you remember about the school's principal and board?

When I arrived at Toronto Railway Station for the first time, Miss Somers came to meet and pick me up ^{to} ~~for~~ her home. It was a surprise, I'm afraid a school principal never goes to meet with a student in Japan.

VIII. How do you think most student's paid for their education at MES [summer jobs, parents paid....]?

I'm sorry I didn't know that. To run a physical education school with such a broad programme must have been costly. I knew some girls were living outside the school residence.

IX. In what ways have you kept in touch with alumnae of MES?

I haven't kept in touch with MES alumnae. Girls of 1939 always write me and invite me to meetings held ~~a~~ every 5 years.

X. What kind of work/volunteer activities did you do as a result of your education at MES?

I taught at my alma mater for 4 years during the war, which was not good for my health (I got TB towards the end of my school year). Now I am working for this and that activities as a volunteer, including "telling youngsters about what Japanese war governments and Gun did in the past 15-year aggressive war". There are many things that I didn't know then, and even now. We must know the truth and so do youngsters.

XI. Did you pursue further education following MES? Where? Why?

No, I didn't.

XII. PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

- A. Your year of birth: 1914
- B. Your country of birth: Japan
- C. Country of mother's birth: Japan
- D. Country of father's birth: Japan
- E. When you entered MES what occupations did your parents have?

Mother's occupation: A highschool teacher in science

Father's occupation: He worked for Mitsui Co.

- F. Where were you living before coming to MES?

City: Tokyo

Province: _____ Country: Japan

- G. Which school did you attend prior to entering MES?

Women's Christian College in Tokyo

4-year English Course and 1-year
What grade (level) did you complete at this school? physical ed.
course

Was this a private or public school? A private school

- H. If you married, which year did you first do so: 1946

Married to: (name) Kaizo Ishimura

Occupation of husband when married: He was working as a volunteer
in civil rights movement in
Japan.

- XIII. Would you be interested in receiving a copy of my
abstract when I complete my study? Yes

Please list addresses of any MES graduates you know of, besides
those from 1939 and 1940.

122 Shimo Benjaku,
Mitaka, Tokio.
Feb. 18, 1941

Dear Miss Layton,

This is a very pleasant morning with warm spring air filling the earth. We had a comfortable rain last night, and it seems the rain brought the first sign of coming spring, at last. I would sing with E. Jacques as

Just for this morning I would like to fly,

Testing this new sweet freedom of the sky,

Watch from some height the sea and mountains slip

Like painted toys below our scudding ship.

Hear the wind whistle against the gleaming sides, and

Feel the soft pulling of its unseen ties.

And I am sure you would feel like that with this sky - and - earth - ful of spring atmosphere.

And how are you all? Are you all safely out from winter? Or are you still hurried in the snow fall.

How is your mother? Is she well and pep as usual?

And I wonder whether you have overcome your wakefulness in the dawn? I hope you do, since you will be getting busier towards Demonstration & Graduation, and you need more sleep than usual.

It seems a century since I wrote you last, and even since I had your nice Christmas letter. I have really been a very bad girl ^{in correspondence} these months which I shall try not to be this year. And first of all, I have to thank you for the poems by Edna St. Vincent ⁴ Lacy. You said in your letter that you had found some mistakes in it, and ~~I'm sorry~~ I haven't found many. I guess I appreciate them as "flavour" to the poems, don't you think? I love the book very much, ~~they~~ ^{it} renews my dear memories every time I read them.

Talking of mistakes, I have just thought of one of our English teacher once who was very humorous and funny sometimes and who asked us to point out any mistakes we could find in a page we were reading one day. We tried, but every spelling or punctuation looked correct. We took nearly ten minutes to go through it paragraph after paragraph, but we couldn't find any. And do you know what he said? There was a "s" in a word printed up side down, that is, the top part a bit larger than the bottom part ~~at~~.

facing the same direction like "S" or something like that in a word on the eighth line of the second paragraph. — That was silly, but it was good for us anyway since we read the page so carefully, ~~anyway~~.

It was grand the other day when my sister, a girl from the college & I went over to the reservoir with sandwiches, and everything. You know we have a river behind our place, and the banks along it are very pretty. The reservoir stands by the bank. It was one of those nice warm days, the sun was, to ~~us~~ our surprise, very warm & springy, and we talked & sung a great deal ^{here}. Though the water was rather shallow in the river, we heard the chapp, & chapp of running stream always, and sunlight dancing on the waves. The sky was blue, and even the leafless trees look pinkish & soft, as if ~~it~~ ^{they} would turn to May wood in an instance. It was a wonderful picnic though it covered a short distance. I thought then that the ravine (?) ^{the} valley you took me will be very pretty in a month or two. Won't it?

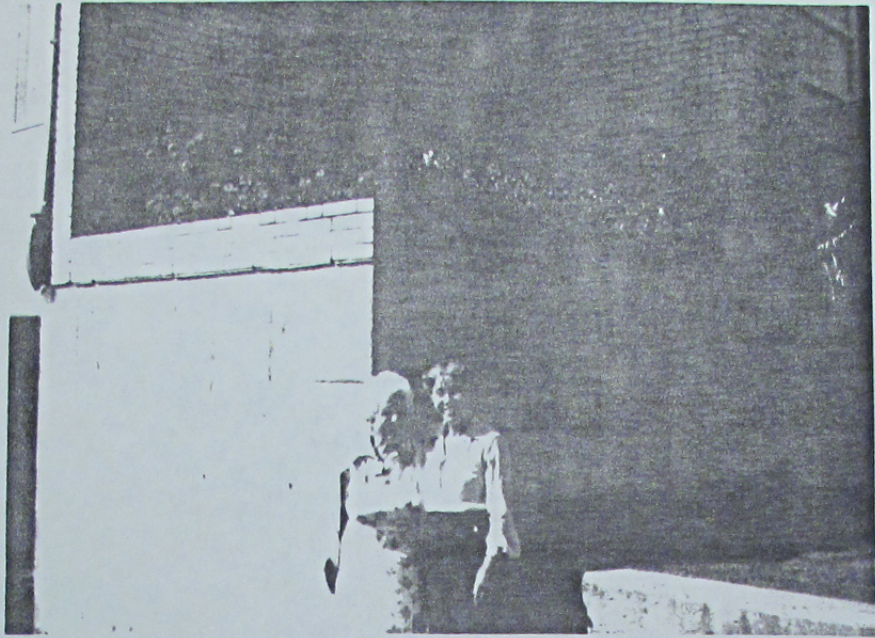
Then a few days ago I went to see a gym. class at the college & saw and heard the familiar tunes of Czobogan or Pop goes the Weasel again. They were good. I mean — I felt I was in gym. at M. E. S. and the tunes coming from Miss Gray's piano. Yes, such a funny sensation!! The class were graduate class & we had our picture taken and had nice chats afterward.

With the coming of spring, I like to be coming out gradually as a snail pecking & crawling out from his shell. How do you think of that? Yes, I have to be very careful, yes, I shall be. I shall keep in mind all what you have said & did for me, oh Miss Layton, I will. And please watch me when I go out? Please, please do ~~so~~ take care of yourself too, and don't catch cold or get too tired or anything in your busy days & nights. I hope the elms will burst out very soon & spring floors pop out in your window sill very very soon. It is very nice to see the lively force growing out in early spring, isn't it? I like elms very much.
 Good-bye, till next time,
 Shigeko Hasegawa

P.S. Brother who was out in front is coming back.

Mama is very very happy to get the news, but she says she couldn't be satisfied till she sees his face, and touch it. However my sisters are just in the happiest whirl to think of seeing him safe, and preparing for his return.

You were all so worrying about him when I told you about him. I couldn't ever forget about your kindness. Mama asks me to tell you that she is very happy & grateful for your deep concerns. Thank you, Miss Layton & to Miss Somers & others. Shigeko.



ミズレーン (事務長) とわたし
「バスコシアの先生の宅で」

1979/9/16

先生は「いつかのようにわたしがいち早く走って上げる」と
言われて、ハリファックス(バスコシア州都)第一の
レストランに送られていつて下さいました。また、大変
感激して興奮しておられて、マンモスの自治会館の部屋
を出る時入口に薬子等の二つの袋をレストランに
下げて来てしまわれ「う本などに薬子さんたうたかしら」と
どうしても思い出せない様子でした。笑って涙が出た。

July 26, '91

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your letter of July 17. Any letters from Canada are precious to me. And yours was particularly welcomed, because it made me think of MES life so closely. I never thought anyone would ask me about "the worst memories" of MES life. To me, it was the best of my life as I wrote in the questionnaire!

I didn't have a space to write about my little but very important memory of Miss Layton. She was always in the office and very small number of girls have memories of her, except me.

Miss Emma Kaufman tried hard to send me to Columbia University after my graduation from

MES. But I got TB in summer of my second year. Doctor asked me to send sputum every day for check, and the sputum was all right for 6 months. The last one I sent was examined and found +++. I didn't know the result until Miss Layton phoned me one Sunday to come to her home for dinner, after I met the doctor. I had been to the doctor's, so I said "I'm all right to go there myself." But she insisted so strongly.

I went to the doctor's with Miss Layton, and was told I had open tuberculosis. Miss Layton had been told about it and, at the same time, she received, the day before, a letter of admission from Columbia University, addressed to me, with a leaflet on the university!! Miss Layton's phone and invitation to the dinner were all from

her fear that my shock might have been too big.
She drove me away from the city of Toronto for
hours and hours. She repeatedly said,
"Shiga, you are peach. It's nice that we go thru
many hardships. You can overcome them all right."
I didn't know what peach meant then; I cried
a lot beside her in the car, but felt so happy
after hours of drive.

So, you'll know why I love MES, why I talk
about MES so much, why I am proud and
grateful of my life at MES.

I'm sending you a booklet, under separate
cover, on Japan's aggressive war. Nobody was
cross at me while I was in Toronto — but I think I
should not be spoiled but see the truth.

With love, Shigeo





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